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The Associates of the National Agricultural Library, Inc.
Newsletter No. 8

Beltsville, Md. 20705

November 1973

VIEW FROM THE TOWER

In July, I wrote that the National Agricultural Library needs to develop strong ties with the Nation's top agribusiness leaders. The ties should be such as would benefit both parties directly. The Library is in a position with its automated data base of bibliographic records on agricultural research to support the information needs of agribusiness. With strong business leadership support, NAL could develop more imaginative and innovative services to the agricultural community.

One way to foster interest in the National Agricultural Library and concurrently to develop such ties would be the establishment of an Agribusiness Hall of Fame at the library facility in Beltsville, Md.

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The Associates NAL, Inc. now, in cooperation with the American Poultry
Historical Society, maintain a hall of fame portrait gallery honoring those who
pioneered progress in the poultry field. A similar hall of fame for agribusiness leaders is certainly a possibility. A selection committee representative of a broad spectrum of the Agricultural Community could be responsible for
seeking nominations to the Agribusiness Hall of Fame. The portraits of the
honorees would be prominently displayed at the National Agricultural Library.
The nomination of outstanding leaders in American agriculture to such a hall of
fame should help to generate a strong base for the forward growth of our National
Agricultural Library.

The Board of Directors plan to appoint a Committee to give this proposal study and to work out the mechanics. Comments and recommendations are invited from the membership. Please forward your ideas on this proposal to the Executive Secretary.

FRANK FRAZIER President

HAPPENINGS AT NAL

Secretary Earl L. Butz Visits NAL

The first official visit of any Secretary of Agriculture to the new National Agricultural Library building since its completion in 1969 occurred September 18, 1973. A general tour of the facility was provided by Dr. Joseph F. Caponio, Acting Director, and Miss Leila Moran, Information Officer. Among the highlights was a demonstration of the CAIN-ON-LINE system. Since the Secretary was visiting a re-cycling project on sewage composting later in the morning, the computer was directed to search the files and display bibliographic citations on this subject

The Secretary concluded his visit with informal greetings to the staff assembled in the NAL lobby. A copy of "Lincoln and Agriculture", published by The Associates in 1972 was presented to the Secretary as a memento of his visit.

Librarians' Delegation From The People's Republic of China

A group of distinguished librarians from the People's Republic of China visited the National Agricultural Library on October 3, 1973. The Delegation was headed by Mr. Liu Chi-ping, Director of the National Library of Peking. A briefing on NAL programs was made by Samuel Waters, Deputy Director for Resource Development, followed by a tour of the facility. The Associates NAL, Inc. hosted a buffet luncheon.

CAIN-ON-LINE

"Instant recall" of over 400,000 agricultural references from NAL's CAIN data base is now a reality. References can be called up from computer storage banks within seconds, displayed on a TV-like screen, and printed out on paper by a highspeed typewriter. This system is intended to serve primarily the bibliographic information needs of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The bibliographic data for this system is provided by NAL.

Activities Report

Xerographic Fund: The Associates established this fund January 1973 with the purchase of \$50.00 worth of photocopy coupons from the National Agricultural Library. The Associates will make available complimentary copy of material to foreign customers requiring small amounts of photocopied material on a one-time basis only. As of October 5, 1973 The Associates have supplied eight foreign

Copy Service: The Associates have operated two coinfax copier machines for the benefit of NAL patrons since July 1971. In the beginning both machines operated at a deficit. Accounts for 1972 show a modest profit. The machines continue to show a profit for 1973. The Associates NAL, Inc. assumed a contract with Olivetti Leasing Corporation from the USDA Welfare and Recreation Association. This contract expires May 1975. The Board of Directors has authorized the installation of a third copier machine. This copier will be located at the main library in Beltsville as back-up to the present equipment. There will then be two copiers at Beltsville and one at the D.C. Branch.

Professional Activities Fund: With a grant of \$5,000 from the Rockefeller Foundation, The Associates were able to fund a Professional Activities Fund for foreign library students studying in the United States. The grant expired August 31, 1973. The Associates were able to send four doctoral students to the American Library Association Annual Meeting in Las Vegas, June 1973. Three students were sent to the ASIS'73 meeting in Los Angeles. A workshop at NAL was made available to three students and a field trip to the U.S. Forest Service Library, Madison, Wisconsin was made possible for another student. A full report will be submitted to the Rockefeller Foundation. A copy of the report will be included in the next issue of this Newsletter.

Financial Development Committee: Patrick W. Brennen, Agricultural Librarian,
University of Delaware volunteered to develop sources of funds for The Associates.
His first project, a solicitation of funds from the membership has netted \$115,00 from fourteen members. Mr. Brennen is also contacting agricultural librarians as a group to join The Associates NAL.

ODDS AND ENDS

A sincere welcome is extended to our new members. We look forward to a rewarding association with you!

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The list of current members in good standing is attached. If your name is omitted from the list this will be your last Newsletter. Of course, you do not want this to happen, so get those membership renewals in promptly to the Executive Secretary.

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